

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:77

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2006

NON AVAILABILOITY OF LIFE SAVING DRUGS

Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether essential life saving drugs are not easily available in the market and people are facing a lot of problems as a result thereof;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) The steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) To (c) : The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO,95) does not make any distinction between Life Saving drugs and other drugs. There is no specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drugs can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug, in general, is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) monitors the availability and shortages of all medicines normally based on the field reports received from State Drugs Controllers. No specific report of non-availability and shortages of essential medicines in the market have been received during the recent past. NPPA takes necessary action whenever reports on shortages/non-availability of medicines are received from the State Drugs Controllers, NGOs or other sources to make the particular medicine available in the affected area/market.